

IN THE CLAIMS

The status of each claim is listed below.

An Amendment and Request for Reconsideration was filed on December 17, 2004. However, those amendments were not entered as set forth in the Advisory Action dated January 24, 2004.

Claims 1–27: Cancelled.

Claim 28 (Currently Amended): A method of increasing the drought resistance of plants, comprising

introducing a polynucleotide encoding a protein having raffinose synthase activity into plants and

growing plants under drought conditions to select ~~selecting~~ plants which have higher drought resistance compared to the plants prior to introducing the polynucleotide.

Claim 29 (Previously Presented): The method of Claim 28, wherein the plant is selected from the group consisting of *Arabidopsis*, *Glycine*, *Vicia*, rape-seed, *Helianthus*, *Gossypium*, sugar beet, *Oryza*, *Saccharum*, corn, and *Sorghum*.

Claim 30 (Previously Presented): The method of Claim 28, wherein the polynucleotide is introduced into the plant on a vector.

Claim 31 (Previously Presented): The method of Claim 28, wherein the polynucleotide is introduced into a chromosome of the plant.

Claim 32 (Previously Presented): The method of Claim 28, wherein the protein comprises the amino acid sequence in SEQ ID NO: 1.

Claim 33 (Currently Amended): A method of increasing the drought resistance of plants, comprising:

introducing a polynucleotide encoding a protein having raffinose synthase activity into plants, wherein said polynucleotide comprises SEQ ID NO: 2 or a polynucleotide that hybridizes under stringent conditions to SEQ ID NO: 2, wherein the stringent conditions comprise washing at 60°C in 1 X SSC and 0.1% SDS, and

growing plants under drought conditions to select ~~selecting~~ plants which have higher drought resistance compared to the plants prior to introducing the polynucleotide.

Claim 34 (Previously Presented): The method of Claim 33, wherein the plant is selected from the group consisting of *Arabidopsis*, *Glycine*, *Vicia*, rape-seed, *Helianthus*, *Gossypium*, sugar beet, *Oryza*, *Saccharum*, corn, and *Sorghum*.

Claim 35 (Previously Presented): The method of Claim 33, wherein the polynucleotide is introduced into the plant on a vector.

Claim 36 (Previously Presented): The method of Claim 33, wherein the polynucleotide is introduced into a chromosome of the plant.

Claim 37 (Previously Presented): The method of Claim 33, wherein the polynucleotide comprises SEQ ID NO: 2.

Claim 38 (Currently Amended): A method of increasing resistance to high salt concentration in plants,  
comprising introducing a polynucleotide encoding a protein having raffinose synthase activity into plants and  
growing plants under high salt conditions to select ~~selecting~~ plants which have higher resistance to high salt concentration compared to the plants prior to introducing the polynucleotide.

Claim 39 (Previously Presented): The method of Claim 38, wherein the plant is selected from the group consisting of *Arabidopsis*, *Glycine*, *Vicia*, rape-seed, *Helianthus*, *Gossypium*, sugar beet, *Oryza*, *Saccharum*, corn, and *Sorghum*.

Claim 40 (Previously Presented): The method of Claim 38, wherein the polynucleotide is introduced into the plant on a vector.

Claim 41 (Previously Presented): The method of Claim 38, wherein the polynucleotide is introduced into a chromosome of the plant.

Claim 42 (Previously Presented): The method of Claim 38, wherein the protein comprises the amino acid sequence in SEQ ID NO: 1.

Claim 43 (Currently Amended): A method of increasing resistance to high salt concentration in plants, comprising:

introducing a polynucleotide encoding a protein having raffinose synthase activity into the plant, wherein said polynucleotide comprises SEQ ID NO:2 or a polynucleotide that hybridizes under stringent conditions to SEQ ID NO:2, wherein the stringent conditions comprise washing at 60°C in 1 X SSC and 0.1% SDS, and

growing plants under high salt conditions to select ~~selecting~~ plants which have higher resistance to high salt concentration compared to the plants prior to introducing the polynucleotide.

Claim 44 (Previously Presented): The method of Claim 43, wherein the plant is selected from the group consisting of *Arabidopsis*, *Glycine*, *Vicia*, rape-seed, *Helianthus*, *Gossypium*, sugar beet, *Oryza*, *Saccharum*, corn, and *Sorghum*.

Claim 45 (Previously Presented): The method of Claim 43, wherein the polynucleotide is introduced into the plant on a vector.

Claim 46 (Previously Presented): The method of Claim 43, wherein the polynucleotide is introduced into a chromosome of the plant.

Claim 47 (Previously Presented): The method of Claim 43, wherein the polynucleotide comprises SEQ ID NO: 2.

SUPPORT FOR AMENDMENT

Claims 28 and 33 have been amended to specify growing plants under drought conditions to select plants which have higher drought resistance compared to the plants prior to introducing the polynucleotide.

Claims 38 and 43 have been amended to specify growing plants under high salt conditions to select plants which have higher resistance to high salt concentration compared to the plants prior to introducing the polynucleotide.

Those amendments are supported by the specification at pages 4-25. In particular, the first full paragraph at page 15, which reads as follows:

Improved resistance against stress including high salt concentration and/or drought resistance means that the degree of growth suppression is subdued *even under conditions which suppress the growth or allow no growth of wild type plants.* Examples of growth evaluation methods include, but are not limited to, growth rate, plant length, weight, leaf area, flower fertility, pollen fertility, seed weight or yield, or a combination of these. [Emphasis added.]

See also section 4 at pages 24-25 of the specification, which describes growing transformed plants under drought conditions and selecting plants having “drought resistance superior to wild type plants.” See page 25 of the specification. In view of the description in the specification, Applicants had possession of the subject matter at the time the present application was filed. Accordingly, no new matter has been added to the present application by the amendments submitted above.